



# AETC News Clips

## Randolph AFB, Texas



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### **Rolls-Royce takes stake in Kelly center**

Rolls-Royce Group has become a minority partner in Kelly Aviation Center L.P., an aircraft engine-repair joint venture located at San Antonio's KellyUSA industrial park, officials said Thursday.

Lockheed Martin Aircraft & Logistics Centers will remain majority partner in the repair and maintenance facility, and GE Transportation will remain a minority partner.

British firm Rolls-Royce's involvement will allow the facility to provide better technical support for military aircraft engines, officials said. The U.S. military's C-130 airlift and P-3 surveillance aircraft use Rolls' T56 engine.

Kelly Aviation Center formed in 2002, taking over an existing Lockheed Martin contract to repair TF39 and T56 engines at KellyUSA, the former Kelly AFB.

*San Antonio Express News*

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# AETC News Clips

## Altus AFB, Okla.



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## Culture fest events set

*From staff reports*

**ALTUS** — The second Red River Cultural Fest is scheduled in Altus on Saturday, Sept. 17, at the Altus Community Center and Imagination Station located on Falcon Road. The Red River Cultural Fest began in 2003. Its purpose is to celebrate and educate local residents and guests of the remarkable and diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds of Southwest Oklahoma and North Texas.

The festival is a full-day event with entertainment non-stop from 10 a.m. to midnight.

The event includes cultural performances, food and sales vendors, display and information booths, demonstration artists, and in the evening bands Red Dirt Rangers and Forty5South will perform.

You can get additional information and a schedule of events by contacting the Altus Chamber of Commerce at 482-0210 or check out the Chamber's web site at [www.altuschamber.com](http://www.altuschamber.com).

Activities from 6 a.m. to noon will center in and around the Altus Community Center on Falcon Road and across the street at Imagination Station, soccer field, Museum of the Western Prairie and surrounding grounds. Altus police will close Falcon Road in the area and guests may park in surrounding lots. Sid Willis, Altus City Council member and cultural fest chairman, said the celebration originated with Gen. Mark Zamzow, past base commander, who wanted to share annual events with the community. Because the base held an air show every other year, the Red River Cultural Fest was scheduled biennially in the years between air shows.



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The festival logo drawn by Geary Poling, 97th Services Squadron marketing director, represents the diversity shared in the Red River area and depicts the festival theme, "All the things that make us different make us American."

Sid Willis explains the festival by saying "We're here to celebrate and promote our Americanism. It's our differences that make us strong. Especially after the recent base realignment and closure announcement, we need to celebrate that we're a unified nation made up of different groups." "We're not limiting ourselves to international diversity; we're opening ourselves up to all the things that make us different—age, religion, culture, community."

Commerce, city of Altus, Shortgrass Arts and Humanities Council, Museum of the Western Prairie and interested citizens initiated the festival planning. Altus Air Force Base is a partner in planning for this festival also.

The Altus Lions Club will kick off the event with a 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. pancake breakfast—adults \$4, children \$2—in the Community Center's east wing. After the breakfast, the site will become festival headquarters, Red Cross first-aid station and rest area.

Ongoing entertainment from 10 a.m. to Midnight will occur on the main stage. Special events will also be held at the Museum of the Western Prairie and Altus AFB.



# AETC News Clips

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## Despite Washington's failure, military does amazing job after Katrina

### TO THE POINT



Michael  
Kinney

**BILOXI, MISS**  
**L**ike everyone else outside of the Gulf Coast region, my eyes were glued to the television last week. The reports of destruction, mayhem, disease, death, starvation and other atrocities kept my attention longer than I wanted.

But at the same time, a constant question kept popping up in my head — why is this happening?

I'm not talking about the hurricane or the flooding. Those are natural disasters that are bound to cause havoc. What I couldn't understand was the horror that showed its face afterward.

Friends and family kept asking me where is the help? Where is the food and water? Why is no one rescuing the victims? Who is in charge?

At that time I had no answer, except that maybe the federal government didn't care.

Judging by what was seen on the newscast the majority of the people who were left to survive on their own in

Mississippi and New Orleans were poor and minorities. Two groups that have been constantly ignored in the past by government officials.

I hoped that I was wrong, but the numbers seemed to bear it out. According to an Associated Press census, people living in the path of Hurricane Katrina were twice as likely as most Americans to be poor and without a car. They were also predominantly minority and their incomes were \$10,000 below the nation's average.

The AP census analysis also showed nearly 25 percent of those living in the hardest-hit areas were





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below the poverty line, about double the national average. About 4.5 percent in the disaster area received public assistance; nationwide, the number was about 3.5 percent. About 60 percent of the 700,000 people in the three dozen neighborhoods were minority.

These numbers speak loudly, especially compared with the response time of the government when tragedy strikes in other places around the country or world.

That is why when I got the call late Saturday to ride along with the Altus Air Force Base's 97th Air Mobility Squadron on a relief mission to Mississippi, I jumped at the opportunity. I wanted to see with my own eyes the supposed apathy that was taking place.

What I found was something completely different among men and women on the ground who were working to save lives. Once the Air Force got word to move in and help, they have been going nonstop to save the people of the Gulf Coast region, despite the fact they themselves were hit hard by Katrina.

"The ones who are rebuilding the base and reaching out to the community are themselves survivors," said Colonel Douglas Hayner, vice Wing commander of the 81st training wing. "We have secured this facility and made sure everybody has food and water."

From the volunteer ground and flight crews at Altus Air Force Base to the airmen at Little Rock AFB and the men and

women at Keesler AFB in Mississippi, I saw nothing but dedication to the cause at hand.

"These airmen are all volunteers," said Lt. Col. Tal Metzgar, commander of the 58th Airlift Squadron. "We didn't have to twist any arms to get them to come out and do this. They understand people are starving, dying and we need to get them help."

I also saw the pain and sorrow on the faces of the airmen who witnessed the devastation of the hurricane. These are the ones who helped evacuate the survivors and will soon be carrying the body bags. They were not holding back or playing it slow. They are serious about saving lives.



# AETC News Clips

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**"It makes me proud to be an American," Hayner said. "It makes me proud to be an Air Force officer. I think the idea at Keesler is that we promise the local community that we are going to reach out to those folks. That's our promise to them and that's our promise to the folks around us."**

**So I still do not have a sufficient answer as to why it took so long for the government to react.**

**From President George W. Bush on down the line to FEMA, there should be shame and anger directed at them. They dropped the ball in their reaction speed and now more people are dead than was necessary.**

**But the buck should stop before it reaches the men and women in uniform. While it's too late to erase the suffering, they have been trying to ease the pain.**



# AETC News Clips

## Columbus AFB, Miss.



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### CAFB hosts more than 100 evacuees

Columbus Air Force Base is becoming a temporary home for nearly 200 people who have been ousted from their homes by Hurricane Katrina.

According to CAFB Public Affairs officer Sonic Johnson, the base is hosting about 178 people.

"We're putting them up in any available places we have," Johnson said.

The base hasn't been set by the military as an official destination for evacuees from other bases that were in the path of the storm, Johnson said, but evacuees have included retirees, family members, and military officers from the Air Force, the Marine Corps and the Navy.

Johnson pointed out that base personnel have been active in volunteering with the local Red Cross and Salvation Army.

The base is preparing to accommodate any more storm evacuees who might arrive, Johnson said.

Any active duty military members and family (Air Force, Navy, Army, Marines and Coast Guard) who evacuated Hurricane Katrina are asked to contact the Columbus Air Force Base Family Support Center at (662) 434-2790 for assistance and referrals.

For information about Keesler Air Force Base, Keesler's Website, [www.keesler.af.mil](http://www.keesler.af.mil), has daily Katrina updates. Family members and dependents can contact (800) 435-9941.

For updated Columbus Air Force Base information, go to [www.columbus.af.mil](http://www.columbus.af.mil) for Katrina link.

*The Commercial Dispatch*

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# AETC News Clips

## Columbus AFB, Miss.



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### PILOT WAIVES HEARING, FACES TRIAL

An instructor accused of helping student pilots cheat has waived his right to an evidentiary hearing and put his fate in the hands of the 19th Air Force commander.

Capt. Richard Brimer, who had been an instructor pilot with the 41st Flying Training Squadron, Columbus Air Force Base, Miss., was charged July 13 with failure to obey a lawful regulation, making a false official statement and conduct unbecoming an officer. He is accused of distributing controlled test answers to student pilots.

Brimer was scheduled to face an Article 32 hearing Aug. 18, but it was canceled that morning. Article 32 hearing officers take the place of civilian grand juries and recommend to commanders whether there is sufficient evidence to justify a court-martial.

Now Brimer's case will go directly to 19th Air Force commander Maj. Gen. Edward "Buster" Ellis to decide if a trial is warranted.

The charges stem from an investigation which began late last year, officials said.

Brimer is accused of giving some student pilots answers to quizzes on emergency procedures.

Eleven officers have received nonjudicial punishment for cheating on those tests, which cover topics including what to do if your plane is on fire. The student officers, whose names were withheld by the base, ranged in rank from second lieutenant through captain. All are assigned to the 14th Operational Support Squadron.

The students were in the five-month second phase of pilot training on the T-37 when the cheating occurred, officials said. Three of the students did not progress from that phase, but the eight others went on to the third and last phase of training on either the T-1 Jayhawk or the T-38 Talon. Those who train on the T-1 will usually fly tanker and transport aircraft, while those who train on the T-38 become fighter or bomber pilots.

Now Brimer and the students are flying desks while the Air Force determines whether they will be retained and retrained or forced out of the Air Force.

*The Commercial Dispatch*

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# AETC News Clips

## Luke AFB, Ariz.



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### **Airmen deploy to support hurricane relief**

[Blackanthem.com](http://Blackanthem.com), LUKE AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz., September 08, 2005

A total of 79 Luke Airmen from various backgrounds and units are supporting relief efforts in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

Since this weekend, 56th Fighter Wing Airmen were sent to Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., which incurred extensive damage from the hurricane. A large concentration of Airmen and equipment from across the Air Force are moving to the base near Biloxi, Miss., to assist the base and Air Force families.

Some Luke Airmen may move forward from Keesler to other locations along the gulf coast, including New Orleans. The Airmen will provide a helping hand following one of the nation's worst natural disasters.

Among the Luke Airmen are combat engineers, communications specialists, maintainers, chaplain assistants, medical personnel as well as command post, public affairs and services professionals.

Of the 79 Airmen, 54 are from the 56th Civil Engineer Squadron. The engineers will assist their Keesler counterparts in securing the installation's perimeter, clearing debris, and working to house displaced personnel and relief workers. Electrical, power production, structural and utilities technicians are included in the group.

Nine Airmen will assist with food preparation and housing arrangements to help feed and billet military personnel who are supporting relief efforts along the entire gulf coast region.

***Blackanthem.com***

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Another seven Airmen are from the 56th Medical Group representing various medical specialties, including a physician, a nurse, a medical technician, three medical administration Airmen and one medical logistician. They are part of an expeditionary medical support team setting up to provide care for active-duty military members and their families.

"The men and women of Luke are supporting our Air Force as part of a nationwide effort to help as many people as possible," said Col. Robin Rand, 56th Fighter Wing commander. "It's an honor and a privilege for our Airmen to help our nation at such an important time."

In addition to supporting the hurricane relief effort, Luke Airmen have also been tasked to deploy to areas in and around Iraq and Afghanistan to replace Air Force members whose families have been devastated by the hurricane.

Luke's Chapel donated the offering collected on Sept. 4 to the Keesler AFB and gulf region relief efforts.

Source : Secretary of the Air Force, Office of Public Affairs



# AETC News Clips

## Vance AFB, Okla.



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### Longtime Vance advocate dies

The Enid News and Eagle, Page D5

9 September, 2005

By Jeff Mullin Senior Writer

Oscar Curtis, longtime local businessman who for many years was the driving force behind Enid's Air Force Association Chapter, died at 86 Wednesday in Oklahoma City.

Mike Cooper, former president of the AFA's Texoma Region, called Curtis "the reason that Enid continues to have the largest and strongest Air Force Association chapter."

Cooper, chairman of Vance Development Authority and Oklahoma Strategic Military Planning Commission, said "Enid has the largest community partner (business) membership of any Air Force Association in the world because of Oscar Curtis."

Curtis helped establish many programs to promote the relationship between Enid and Vance Air Force Base, such as Camp Tomahawk, a two-week summer program for underprivileged children. He also helped start the annual Vance-Enid golf tournament, the 2005 version of which will be held Sunday at Oakwood Country Club.

He helped found Enlisted Appreciation Night, an event to honor enlisted personnel at Vance. In 1982 he began the Community Partner program as a way to raise funds for scholarships and other recognition efforts for Vance.

"He was persistent and tenacious," said Enid AFA member Bill Shewey, a senior vice president at Central National Bank. "He had a lot of drive. He was good for the Air Force Association, in Enid and statewide as well as nationally."

In 2003, Curtis received an Air Force Association lifetime achievement award.

"When you get 400 businesses in a community with only 600 businesses into a community partnership, like Oscar did, that is pretty outstanding," said former state AFA president George Pankonin.

Curtis also was active with the Greater Enid Chamber of Commerce's Military Affairs Committee and became known as "Mr. Christmas," for his work on the chamber's annual Santa Claus visit. He was an original member of the Enid-Vance Partners in the Sky organization.

He served as campaign chairman for the United Way of Enid and Northwest Oklahoma, was chairman of the Retail Merchants' Association and president of Oakwood Country Club. He also was president of the Rotary Club and was involved with the Senior AMBUCS and the Service Corps of Retired Executives. He also served on the Enid City Commission.

"He was a lover of Enid," said Bob Emery, senior vice president of commercial lending at Security National Bank, who worked with Curtis on a number of civic activities. "He did a lot of things for this town. Mostly he was Mr. Vance."

***Enid News & Eagle***

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Curtis, a graduate of the University of Arkansas, moved to Enid in 1957 to manage the JCPenney store on the Square. He managed the store for 22 years, before his retirement in 1979. He turned down a promotion to manage a larger store in Shreveport, La., because he didn't want to leave Enid.

He was a member of First Presbyterian Church, which he served in various capacities.

The funeral for Curtis will be 4 p.m. Monday at First Presbyterian Church, with a reception to follow.

*Enid News & Eagle*

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